

This book will prove to be an invaluable resource to Christian parents seeking wisdom in navigating this transgender moment.

RYAN T. ANDERSON

*Author of *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment**

Sharon James has written a book that is brief and powerful. In short scope, she reviews the current landscape of various issues around gender controversies, and gives the reader the information we need. She sets out to explain complicated issues in simple terms, and she succeeds. Helpful definitions, examples, and suggestions for further reading abound. Get this book and read it, and get lots of copies for friends and family to read as well. This little book reminds us that God created us male and female, and that that is very good.

MARK DEVER

Pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC

President of 9Marks Ministries

God bless Sharon James for her willingness to tackle one of the most troubling social issues of our time. This book couldn't have come at a better time in our history. I encourage anyone who wants to get a better understanding to get your hands around this book. Find a quiet place, dig in and be changed by what you learn.

With easy-to-understand language and using a multidisciplinary approach, James shows how and why the gender-distressed may feel at odds with themselves and provides great insight and understanding to those among us who are burdened to help.

Indeed, as James so clearly articulates, we need to extend a great deal of compassion as we heed Christ's call to meet these people at their darkest depths and point the way to redemption and restoration.

WALT HEYER

Author and speaker

Sexchangeregret.com

In the beginning God made humanity male and female; today the devil seeks to destroy the good of humanity by deconstructing humanity into a hundred different ‘genders’. This is a vital subject for the church to grasp. As someone who has been involved in the debate about gender identity and especially the issue of transgender, I have often been asked to write an accessible book on the subject for ordinary Christians. Now I don’t need to. Sharon James’ book more than fulfils that need. Though short, it is packed with all the information and background you will need to help you understand what is going on in our culture. Clearly written, well-informed, contemporary and biblical. Personally I would recommend that every Christian have a copy, and every church several. Superb!

DAVID ROBERTSON

Pastor and apologist

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This is a remarkable book, both for the range of material covered and its sharp insights into the dominant pathologies of our time. The reader will find herein helpful guides to the origins, history, terminology, and major theorists of the sexual revolution, specifically as it culminates in its latest iteration – that of the transgender movement. Sharon James presents vast amount of difficult material in an accessible, condensed form, helping the reader navigate the fog that surrounds gender theory and its political implications. But she offers more than just a description of how we arrived here: she also provides suggestions for further reading and a final chapter on how Christians should address the issue with both grace and truth. This is a book from which all parents, pastors, and the Christian public in general will greatly benefit.

CARL R. TRUEMAN

Professor, Grove City College, Pennsylvania

No one in their right mind will enjoy reading this book. I found it chilling. But unless you are already well-versed in gender ideology then you need to read it, because this anti-God and ultimately anti-human ideology threatens to take over the western world (as a start), demanding not just tolerance but positive acceptance. If you think that maybe Christians are over-reacting or obsessed, then you should pay close attention to the roots of this movement described here, to its God-hating exaltation of the Self, and to the way in which it is coming to a school near you soon (if it isn't there already). Sharon James draws an important distinction between kindness toward those who struggle to accept the way God has made them and resistance to the ideology that would use them as pawns, but this accessible book is a direct and urgent call to stand firm against that ideology.

GARRY WILLIAMS

Director, Pastors' Academy, London Seminary

Compassion demands that we grasp the argument of this powerful yet uncomfortable book. Sharon James is persuasive as she shows us that 'Gender theory is a lie', and like all lies, it is causing damage, particularly to the vulnerable. This book will help congregations to have clarity where they might be feeling perplexed and it will also help us as we seek to minister in love to those who have been impacted. It will also equip us to reason with those who are promoting or accepting of the Gender Theory agenda. Sharon has done the church a great service.

GREG STRAIN

Senior Pastor, Spicer Street Church, St Albans, UK

(Greg practiced as a Doctor before entering Christian ministry)

This comprehensive overview of gender ideology and the transgender movement – its roots, its demands, its contradictions and its increasingly pervasive influence on our society today – will help readers to better understand a central part of the culture wars we are facing. Sharon James explains simply some of the unprecedented threats to our freedom that come with gender ideology, and its roots in radical feminism, cultural marxism and the sexual revolution, which have all spread at astonishing speed. This contrasts starkly with God's good design of male and female. A challenging, confusing and complex topic is handled in an accessible, respectful and compassionate way, which will leave the reader with greater confidence in the truth that we have all been created male or female.

PHILIPPA TAYLOR

Head of Public Policy at Christian Medical Fellowship

Consultant on Bioethics

The clear message of this book is: 'The Emperor has no clothes!' Sharon James sets out the truth about transgender ideology, and calls Christians to awareness of the LGBTQ agenda. Gender theory is a dangerous lie and people are being hurt by it. *Gender Ideology* makes it clear that passivity and affirmation are not the way of love for individuals struggling with gender dysphoria. We must respond with respect that upholds God's good design for humanity. If you are a pastor, parent, teacher, student or friend, you should read this book.

KERI FOLMAR

Pastor's wife, the United Christian Church of Dubai

author of *The Good Portion: Scripture*

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Introduction

Behind the 'Good News' stories – And why it matters to you

Ryland Whittington was born in California in 2007. Her parents were thrilled to have a lovely, healthy little girl.¹

But they claim that as soon as their daughter could talk, she said she wanted to be a boy. They concluded that she was 'transgender'. They cut her hair, dressed her as a boy, and always used masculine pronouns (such as 'he' and 'his'). When Ryland was only six, they took her to a huge Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender 'diversity' event. The child was put up on the platform, where she told the audience:

My name is Ryland Michael Whittington. I'm a transgender kid. I am six. I am a cool kid. I am the happiest I have ever been.²

1 Whittington, H, *Raising Ryland: Our Story of Parenting a Transgender Child with No Strings Attached*, William Morrow Paperbacks, 2016.

2 BBC Newsbeat online, 3 June 2014; see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/27679841/i-am-six-and-im-a-transgender-kid-i-am-a-cool-kid> (accessed 21 September 2018).

The media in the West usually presents such stories as ‘good news’. We are supposed to respond: *‘That’s wonderful. An unhappy little girl has been transformed into a happy little boy!’*

In reality, such stories are evidence of deep confusion. Behind the ‘good news stories’ you sometimes see in the headlines, there are many people who once claimed to have ‘changed sex’ but discovered that it made their unhappiness worse. People like Walt Heyer.

Walt Heyer’s Story

Walt grew up in Los Angeles, California, during the 1940s. He often went to stay with his grandma at weekends. She liked to treat little Walt like a girl, dressing him up in pretty dresses. He loved the attention, and loved the way it felt to be dressed up as a girl.

She lavished delighted praise upon me when I was dressed as a girl. Feelings of euphoria swept over me with her praise, followed later by depression and insecurity about being a boy. Her actions planted the idea in me that I was born in the wrong body.³

When his dad found this out, he began harshly disciplining his son, and didn’t let him visit grandma without his parents again. Things got even worse when another older male relative began subjecting Walt to sexual abuse. Walt couldn’t physically escape the violence, but in his imagination he created a place to escape. In that ‘safe place’, he imagined himself as a little girl, loved by grandma. These thoughts got so ingrained that his desire to be female never went away.

3 Heyer, W, ‘I was a Transgender Woman’, *The Public Discourse*, 14 April, 2015, <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/04/14688/> (accessed 21 September, 2018).

Walt achieved spectacular career success. He married and had children. But he never stopped wanting to be a woman. In his head, he associated being female with being safe and happy. He looked for comfort in drink, in hard work. Eventually he was advised that a 'sex change' would solve his problems. When he was forty-two, Walt had surgery and began taking female hormones. He now looked like a woman, and legally changed his name to Laura. He later wrote:

I was generally happy for a while ... [But] Being a female turned out to be only a cover-up, not healing. I knew I wasn't a real woman, no matter what my identification documents said.⁴

Eventually, Christians reached out to him with love. Walt realised that while we can change appearance, we can't change what God created us to be. He made the difficult decision to go back to live as a man. Even though he had been physically mutilated, he wanted to stop 'living a lie'. He writes:

Coming back to wholeness as a man after undergoing unnecessary gender surgery and living life legally and socially as a woman for years wasn't going to be easy. I had to admit to myself that going to a gender specialist when I first had issues had been a big mistake. I had to live with the reality that body parts were gone ... a sad consequence of using surgery to treat psychological illness ... But I had a firm foundation on which to begin my journey to restoration. I was living a life free from drugs and alcohol, and I was ready to become the man I was intended to be.⁵

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.